

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 ORM-03 SR-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ABF-01 AID-20 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 142356Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2720

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS USUN 520

DEPT PASS USINT DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SREF, UNRWA, XF

SUBJ: UNRWA FINANCES

REF: USUN 450

AT REQUEST OF UNRWA WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN, SYG ISSUED
SPECIAL APPEAL OR FUND* TO UN MEMBERS DATED FEB 11.
(THIS WAS IN ADDITION TO ROUTINE APPEAL DATED FEB 7.)
FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SYG'S SPECIAL APPEAL:

"SIR,

I APPEAL MOST URGENTLY TO YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR ADDITIONAL
HELP TO OVERCOME THE MAJOR FINANCIAL CRISIS NOW FACING THE
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES
IN THE NEAR EAST (UNRWA), AND TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE
AGENCY TO COVER THE MINIMAL NEEDS OF THE PALESTINE
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REFUGEES.

YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS LAST SESSION EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THE SERIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION AND REQUESTED THE WORKING GROUP ON THE FINANCING OF UNRWA TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF THE AGENCY, TO HELP MEET UNRWA'S FINANCIAL NEEDS.

THE COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF UNRWA HAS NOW INFORMED ME THAT, DESPITE SOME SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN CONTRIBUTIONS, THE AGENCY IS FACED IN 1974 WITH A MASSIVE DEFICIT OF SOME \$12 MILLION, AS A RESULT OF CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS, ACCELERATED INFLATION IN UNRWA'S AREA OF OPERATIONS AND AN INCREASE IN THE SCHOOL POPULATION. THE WORKING CAPITAL RESERVES HAVE NOW FALLEN TO THE LOWEST LEVEL IN THE HISTORY OF THE AGENCY AND STAND AT ONLY \$1.5 MILLION. CASH IN HAND WAS DOWN TO \$1.8 MILLION AT THE BEGINNING OF 1974. ONE MONTH'S CASH REQUIREMENTS ALONE IS \$4.5 MILLION.

UNLESS ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AMOUNTING TO \$12.5 MILLION CAN BE ASSURED BY THE MIDDLE OF MARCH 1974, SEVERE CURTAILMENTS IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES SUCH AS THE CLOSING OF SCHOOLS AND THE REDUCTION OF RATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE. THE GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE HOSTS TO THE REFUGEES ARE ALARMED AT THIS PROSPECT AND HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP CONCERN.

IT IS A MATTER OF DISMAY TO ME THAT JUST AT THE MOMENT WHEN SOME REAL PROSPECT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS AT LAST ARISEN, THE SERVICES OF UNRWA TO THE PALESTINE REFUGEES MAY HAVE SOON TO BE SHARPLY REDUCED. SUCH A REDUCTION WOULD INEVITABLY ENTAIL SEVERE HARDSHIPS FOR OVER A MILLION PALESTINE REFUGEES AND THE ADVERSE EFFECTS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE FELT NOT ONLY IN THE AREA, BUT ALSO AT THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE.

I URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND EARNESTLY HOPE THAT IT WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO RESPOND GENEROUSLY AND SPEEDILY TO
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THIS APPEAL.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KURT WALDHEIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL"
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